

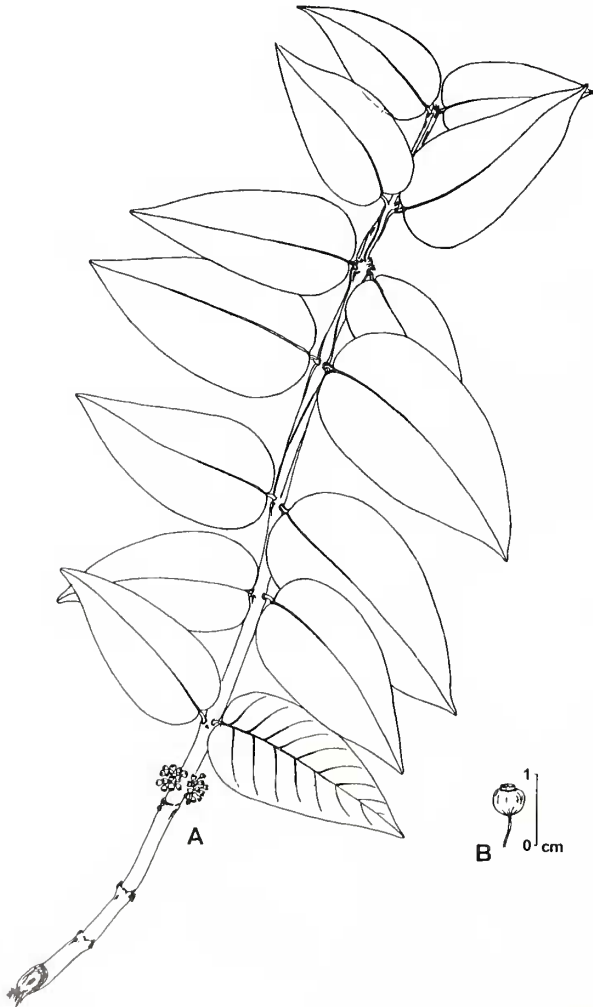
**Distribution:** INDIA: Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Sikkim, West Bengal; Bhutan, China, Myanmar.

**Notes:** The plant was found growing in subtropical forest at an elevation of c. 1,300 m on humus-rich soil, beside a stream. The area experiences heavy rainfall and the plant was found to reach the top of the forest canopy. We could not locate the species in any other locality of Dibang Valley.

A copious amount of watery sap was found to ooze out on cutting the stem.

### 29. *MEMECYLON WIGHTII* THW. (MELASTOMATACEAE), A NEW RECORD FOR MAHARASHTRA STATE

During studies on the flora of Savantwadi taluka and thereafter Chaukul and Ramghat area of Sindhudurg district of western Maharashtra, a number of interesting flowering plants were collected. A rare plant belonging to the genus



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*Memecylon* of Family Melastomataceae drew the attention of the author. Critical study of the collected materials confirmed its identity as *M. wightii* Thw.

Nomenclature, a short description and differences between the related species are given in the note. Illustrations of flowering twig and a fruit are provided (Fig. 1).

*Memecylon wightii* Thw., Enum. 113. 1859; Cogniaux in DC., Monogr. Phan. 7: 1145. 1891; C.B. Clarke in J.D. Hooker Flora British India 2: 554. 1897; Woodrow in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 11: 638. 1898; Cooke, T. The Flora of the Presidency of Bombay 2: 503. 1903; Talbot, Forest Flora of the Bombay Presidency and Sindh 2: 55. 1911.

A small tree; branchlets slender, quadrangular, winged; wings broader between each node. Leaves shortly petiolate, ovate-oblong, acute or somewhat acuminate, glabrous, thick, shining above, pinninerved beneath. Flowers crowded cauliflorous, borne on the bare basal portion of the branchlet in between two nodes, pedicellate; pedicel slender, tube campanulate; limb slightly 4-lobed or almost truncate. Petals blue, obtuse. Berry spherical, conspicuously crowned with the calyx-limb.

*M. wightii* Thw. resembles *M. randerianum* Almeida & Almeida in general appearance, however, it varies from *M. randerianum* in the following characters.

<i>M. wightii</i> Thw.	<i>M. randerianum</i> Almeida & Almeida
1. Branchlets quadrangular winged.	1. Branchlets terete.
2. Leaves shortly pedicellate, rounded at base.	2. Leaves sessile, amplexicaule rounded at base.
3. Flowers cauliflorous in clusters.	3. Flowers axillary.
4. Pedicel very slender, pendulous, peduncle absent.	4. Pedicel stout, peduncle erect.

Fl: January.

Fr: September.

The materials collected from an evergreen forest near the Amboli-Chaukul border are preserved and deposited at Blatter Herbarium. (Specimens No. BGG 1050, 2628).

There is no report of this species from the present State of Maharashtra. Nor are there any specimens in Blatter Herbarium, Mumbai.

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30. *LEPTOLEJEUNEA BALANSAE* STEPH. (HEPATICAE: JUNGERMANNIALES)  
– A NEW RECORD OF BRYOFLOTA FROM THE INDIAN MAINLAND

The Western Ghats in peninsular India – recognized as one of the richest biodiversity hotspots in the world – has been studied well for flowering plants. The Tirunelveli-Travancore hills, located at the southern end of the Western Ghats and lying in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala respectively, are perhaps the richest in the Western Ghats. The flowering plants, and ferns and their allies have been well documented, but lower groups remain greatly neglected. Therefore we began collecting the bryophytes of the Western Ghats of Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts, three years ago, with the intention of compiling an inventory.

*Leptolejeunea balansae*, a foliicolous liverwort, earlier known to occur only in the Andamans in India (Pande *et al.* 1957; Awasthi 1986) was recorded from the study area. A detailed description and an illustration are provided.

*Leptolejeunea balansae* Steph. in Hedwigia 35: 105. 1896 & Sp. Hepat. 5: 377. 1913; Pandé *et al.* in J. Indian Bot. Soc. 36: 345. 1957; U.S. Awasthi in J. Indian Bot. Soc. 65: 119. 1986 (Fig. 1).

Plants dioecious, foliicolous, closely appressed to the substratum, 2-10 mm long, green. Leaves distant, spreading obliquely, slipper-shaped, 0.35-0.4 x 0.17-0.19 mm, entire along

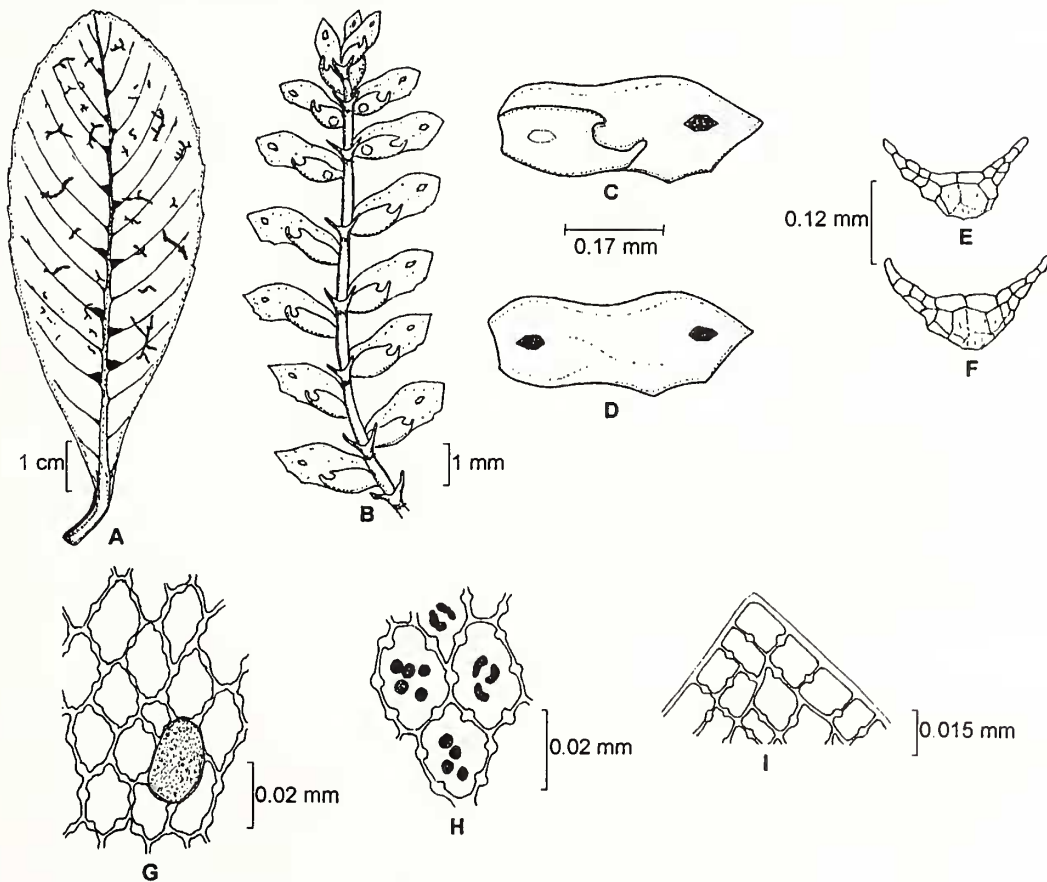


Fig. 1: *Leptolejeunea balansae* Steph.; A. Leaf showing thalli, B. Thallus with antheridia, C. Leaf with lobule showing the upper ocellus, D. Leaf without lobule showing both the ocelli, E. & F. Under leaves, G. Leaf cells with an ocellus, H. Leaf cells with oil bodies, I. leaf apex